

Science & Technology **NEWS**

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Gordon Continues Fight to Rid Communities of Methamphetamine

Introduces Bi-Partisan Gordon/Calvert Bill to Clean Up Meth Sites

(Washington, DC) **House Science Committee Ranking Member Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN)** led a group of bi-partisan colleagues in introducing legislation to develop health-based guidelines for the clean-up of former methamphetamine labs. Fellow Science Committee Member **Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)** joined Mr. Gordon as co-sponsor of this important legislation.

The Gordon/Calvert legislation (H.R. 798) would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with state and local authorities, to begin development of a national set of health-based clean-up guidelines for former methamphetamine - or "meth" - labs; fund the development of field-test kits to detect meth labs for use by law enforcement; and fund a study on the long-term health effects of children recovered from meth labs and the long-term health effects on law enforcement officers.

"When we can effectively locate meth production sites and clean them up, our communities benefit," **stated Gordon**. "This bill will identify key areas where science and technology can support local efforts on the front lines of the meth battle."

An estimated 1.3 million Americans are now using this highly addictive drug. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported more than 7,000 meth labs were dismantled nationwide in 2003. Local law enforcement officials estimate this number represents only 20% of current active meth labs.

"This drug is a problem not just in the way it affects individuals and their families, but in the toxic hazards its illegal production inflicts on our communities. Scientific research is needed to determine the point at which a site may be declared clean," **stated Rep. Calvert**. "Without parameters to measure toxins and contaminants we cannot ensure the safety of the public and communities affected well into the future."

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With attention typically focused on local law enforcement issues surrounding meth, its affect on children and the environment is often overlooked. Meth is usually produced in

residential settings, where the toxic residue lingers to affect children and even future property owners.

It has been reported that producing a single pound of meth creates five to seven pounds of toxic waste. Local officials bear the responsibility for detection and clean up these dangerous sites, yet no national standards currently exist that define a “clean,” meth-free site.

At a recent national conference of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, state and local officials from across the country cited environmental clean-up and remediation of former meth labs among the top challenges they face in their home areas.

“Local communities are working to get rid of meth and clean up their cities and towns, and we’re here to assist them,” **added Gordon**. “Proactive solutions involve learning the best ways to detect, remediate and stem the production of this devastating drug.”

Attached are 2004 figures from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) citing state-by-state totals of methamphetamine related arrests and equipment/dumpsite/lab seizures. These figures are currently only 60% complete as 2004 data is still being reported.

2004 DATA

[Although up to date, DEA estimates these figures to be only 60% complete due to a lag in reporting (i.e. final 2004 data is still being reported)]

STATE	METH SEIZURES	METH ARRESTS
Alabama	378	535
Alaska	48	2
Arizona	95	104
Arkansas	743	883
California	673	53
Colorado	223	218
Connecticut	*	*
Delaware	3	2
Florida	277	327
Georgia	233	327
Hawaii	7	3
Idaho	43	41
Illinois	926	813
Indiana	1002	858
Iowa	1300	786
Kansas	538	278
Kentucky	562	429
Louisiana	113	158
Maine	*	*
Maryland	*	*
Massachusetts	1	2
Michigan	282	139
Minnesota	165	158
Mississippi	246	320
Missouri	2707	2370
Montana	64	53
Nebraska	200	160
Nevada	79	52
New Hampshire	2	*
New Jersey	*	*
New Mexico	118	122
New York	28	26
North Carolina	317	359
North Dakota	217	105
Ohio	211	272
Oklahoma	652	692
Oregon	420	23

2004 DATA <i>[Although up to date, DEA estimates these figures to be only 60% complete due to a lag in reporting (i.e. final 2004 data is still being reported)]</i>		
STATE	METH SEIZURES	METH ARRESTS
Pennsylvania	106	36
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	154	122
South Dakota	31	31
Tennessee	1259	1357
Texas	434	515
Utah	67	68
Vermont	1	*
Virginia	73	83
Washington	743	31
West Virginia	145	117
Wisconsin	74	62
Wyoming	21	17
TOTAL:	15996	13112

- **Meth Seizures** includes equipment, dumpsites and labs.
- **Info from the Drug Enforcement Agency.**
- * **2004 Information currently unavailable.**